

Message Text

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TO USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY
INFO ALL NATO CAPITALS PRIORITY
USDEL MBFR VIENNA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY SOFIA PRIORITY
USMISSION USNATO PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BERLIN PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY HELSINKI PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM PRIORITY

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USSALTTWO/CTB

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TAGS: PARM, SOPN

SUBJECT: AUGUST 23 ROUNDUP: PRESS ITEMS OF ARMS CONTROL
INTEREST -

LONDON FOR AMB/EX, SOFIA FOR AMBASSADOR
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1. DON OBERDORFER OF WASHINGTON POST REPORTED THAT DEFENSE SECRETARY BROWN, "IN STATEMENT INTENDED FOR BOTH SOVIET AND AMERICAN EARS," DECLARED YESTERDAY THAT U.S. WILL RETAIN OPTION OF DEPLOYING "SHELL GAME" MOBILE MISSILE SYSTEM IN SALT AGREEMENT BEING NEGOTIATED BETWEEN U.S. AND USSR. OBERDORFER SAID BROWN SUGGESTED -- BUT DID NOT SAY EXPLICITLY -- THAT CARTER ADMINISTRATION WOULD REFUSE TO SIGN SALT TWO PACT WHICH FORECLOSES CONTROVERSIAL PLAN. OBERDORFER SAID SUCH DEPLOYMENT, "WHICH IS BEING ADVOCATED BY SOME ELEMENTS OF CIVILIAN AND UNIFORMED COMMAND OF CARTER

ADMINISTRATION AND PROMINENT OUTSIDE CRITICS OF SALT, WOULD ALSO COMPLICATE PROCESS OF VERIFYING COMPLIANCE WITH STRATEGIC ARMS LIMITATIONS." POST REPORTER SAID BROWN'S REMARKS TO NATIONAL CONVENTION OF AMERICAN LEGION IN NEW ORLEANS "WERE DESCRIBED BY DEFENSE DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS AS DEFINITIVE AND AUTHORIZED RESTATEMENT OF ADMINISTRATION VIEWPOINT ON 'SHELL GAME' IDEA, WHICH IS ALSO KNOWN AS MULTIPLE AIM POINT' (MAP) SYSTEM." ACCORDING TO BROWN, "PARTS OF JOINT DRAFT TEXT OF SALT TWO AGREEMENT THAT HAVE ALREADY BEEN AGREED ALLOW DEPLOYMENT OF MOBILE ICBM SYSTEMS OF TYPE WE ARE CONSIDERING." OBERDORFER SAID THIS U.S. INTERPRETATION IS REPORTED TO HAVE BEEN PRESENTED BY ACDA DIRECTOR WARNKE TO SOVIET NEGOTIATOR VLADIMIR S. SEMYONOV LAST MONTH IN GENEVA. "CARTER ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS HAVE BEEN RELUCTANT TO CHARACTERIZE SOVIET RESPONSE, BUT ONE KNOWLEDGEABLE OFFICIAL SAID RUSSIANS 'CATEGORICALLY REJECTED' U.S. INTERPRETATION," OBERDORFER POINTED OUT. "BROWN'S STATEMENT YESTERDAY, IN THIS PERSPECTIVE, IS BEING READ AS SHOT ACROSS SOVIET BOW ON THIS ISSUE BY HIGH LEVELS OF CARTER ADMINISTRATION AS WELL AS NEW ASSURANCE TO DOMESTIC BACKERS OF 'SHELL GAME.'" BROWN SAID "NO DECISION HAS UNCLASSIFIED

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BEEN MADE WHETHER OR NOT TO DEPLOY MOBILE ICBM SYSTEMS, OF THIS OR ANY OTHER SORT FOR LAND-BASED MISSILES, EVEN THOUGH U.S. MAINTAINS THAT IT IS PERMITTED THIS OPTION UNDER PRESENT DRAFT TEXT OF SALT AGREEMENT. HE SAID "SHELL GAME" IS ONLY ONE OF NUMBER OF MOBILE ICBM CONCEPTS BEING EVALUATED AS METHODS OF ENHANCING SURVIVABILITY OF U.S. LAND-BASED MISSILES AS SOVIET FORCES IMPROVE IN FUTURE.

2. KENNETH BACON OF WALL STREET JOURNAL SAID MILITARY OFFICIALS ACCORD DOUBLE SIGNIFICANCE TO BROWN'S SPEECH. "FIRST, IT IS FIRM MESSAGE TO SOVIETS THAT U.S. IS INFLEXIBLE IN ITS INSISTENCE THAT ANY SALT AGREEMENT PERMIT CONSTRUCTION OF SO-CALLED ALTERNATE LAUNCH POINT OR MULTIPLE AIM POINT SYSTEMS. SECOND, SPEECH IS CLEAR SIGN TO DOMESTIC CRITICS OF CARTER ADMINISTRATION'S DEFENSE PROGRAMS THAT U.S. PLANS TO PROTECT ITS LAND-BASED ICBM'S." BACON POINTED OUT THAT ALTHOUGH BROWN SAID DECISION HASN'T BEEN MADE WHETHER TO DEPLOY MOBILE ICBM SYSTEMS, "HIS SPEECH IS STRONG INDICATION THAT U.S. WILL DO SO TO PROTECT HIGHLY ACCURATE LAND-BASED MISSILES."

3. BERNARD WEINRAUB, IN SPECIAL TO WASHINGTON STAR, SAID BROWN INDICATED THAT SOVIET OBJECTIONS TO U.S. MISSILE PLAN COULD THWART ADMINISTRATION'S SEARCH FOR AN ARMS AGREEMENT WITH MOSCOW THIS YEAR." WEINRAUB SAID BROWN TOLD AMERICAN LEGION CONVENTION THAT DESPITE "SUBSTANTIAL

MILITARY BUILDUP" OF SOVIET UNION OVER LAST 20 YEARS, U.S. AND ITS ALLIES WERE KEEPING PACE, EVEN OUTREACHING, WARSAW PACT IN SOME CAPABILITIES. BROWN SAID "REASON-ABLE OBJECTIVE TODAY IS TO MAINTAIN MODEST MOMENTUM TOWARD ARMS CONTROL." BUT, SECRETARY CAUTIONED, ARMS CONTROL AS SUCH IS NOT "OUR SOLE OR EVEN PRINCIPAL OBJECTIVE" IN NEGOTIATING SALT AGREEMENT. "WHAT WE WANT, WHAT WE INSIST ON, IS THAT SECURITY OF U.S. AND ITS
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ALLIES BE AT LEAST AS ASSURED WITH SALT AGREEMENT AS WITHOUT. IF AN AGREEMENT DOES NOT MEET THAT TEST, IT WILL NOT BE SIGNED. IF IT DOES IT WILL." WEINRAUB SAID BROWN'S SPEECH, "ONE OF MOST DETAILED BY AN ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL ON U.S. POSITION ON CURRENT STRATEGIC ARMS TALKS, UNDERSCORED IMPORTANCE U.S. PLACES ON PRESERVING ITS DEPLOYMENT PLANS FOR MOBILE MISSILE." HE SAID IT IS KNOWN THAT AT PRIVATE MEETING LAST MONTH IN GENEVA, SEMYONOV TOLD WARNKE THAT U.S. "SHELL GAME" PROPOSAL MIGHT NOT BE COMPATIBLE WITH TERMS OF NEW SALT TREATY. "AT TIME, SEMYONOV DID NOT RULE OUT AMERICAN DEPLOYMENT OF MOBILE MISSILE SYSTEM UNDER NEW TREATY, BUT HE DID INDICATE THAT MOSCOW WOULD RESIST SOME APPROACHES ADMINISTRATION WAS EXAMINING. IN PARTICULAR, HE IS BELIEVED TO HAVE QUESTIONED SO-CALLED 'MULTIPLE AIM POINT' MISSILE SYSTEM.... ADMINISTRATION HAD DECIDED THAT NEW ARMS ACCORD MUST ALLOW U.S. TO MOVE AHEAD WITH MOBILE MISSILE PROGRAM, LARGELY BECAUSE IT IS THOUGHT AN AGREEMENT WITHOUT THIS OPTION CANNOT WIN SENATE APPROVAL BROWN'S SPEECH IS FIRST PUBLIC WARNING TO MOSCOW THAT ADMINISTRATION WILL REFUSE TO SIGN AN ARMS PACT UNLESS IT INCLUDES PROVISIONS FOR MOBILE MISSILE SYSTEM."

4. BALTIMORE SUN REPORTED THAT IN FIRST SUCCESSFUL DEMONSTRATION OF ITS KIND, U.S. MILITARY SCIENTISTS HAVE REPORTEDLY DESTROYED HIGH-SPEED MISSILE IN FLIGHT USING POWERFUL PROTOTYPE LASER BEAM WEAPON. SUN SAID SUCCESSFUL TEST WAS DISCLOSED IN ARTICLE BY PHILIP J. KLASS IN AVIATION WEEK AND SPACE TECHNOLOGY. SUN SAID PENTAGON FREQUENTLY MAKES NEW TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENTS PUBLIC IN THAT JOURNAL. SUCCESSFUL TEST REPORTEDLY WAS CONDUCTED "SOME TIME EARLIER THIS YEAR" AT SAN JUAN
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CAPISTRANO, CALIFORNIA, FACILITY OF DEFENSE AND SPACE SYSTEMS GROUP OF TRW, INC., WHICH HAD BUILT LASER FOR NAVY AND DEFENSE ADVANCED RESEARCH PROJECTS AGENCY. PENTAGON SPOKESMAN SAID DEVELOPMENT OF LASER WEAPONS IS STILL "VERY MUCH IN FEASIBILITY STUDY STAGE," AND "WE WILL STILL DON'T KNOW WHETHER THEY WILL PROVE IN LONG

RUN TO BE COST EFFECTIVE, PRACTICAL WEAPONS., SPOKESMAN EMPHASIZED THAT RECENT CALIFORNIA TEST HAD INVOLVED "TEST BED" AND NOT WORKING WEAPON, AND THAT "DRAMATIC THOUGH IT WAS, ITS INTENTION WAS MAINLY TO TEST EFFECTIVENESS OF POINTING AND TRACKING SYSTEM., ALTHOUGH OFFICIALS SAID MAJOR DOUBTS REMAIN ABOUT FUTURE OF LASER WEAPONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM, PROGRAM COULD POSSIBLY PRODUCE WORKING WEAPON BY 1982, SUN REPORTED. "PENTAGON'S DISCLOSURE OF ITS ANTIMISSILE LASER IS PRESUMABLY AN INTENTIONAL SIGNAL TO SOVIET UNION, AMONG OTHER NATIONS, THAT THIS ASPECT OF AMERICAN DEFENSE TECHNOLOGY IS WELL ADVANCED.

NEVERTHELESS, AMERICAN EXPERTS CONCEDE THAT SOVIET UNION IS SPENDING MORE FOR RESEARCH ON LASER WEAPONS THAN IS U.S." CHRISTOPHER

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